

Today's News - Friday, February 1, 2013

- It's a heady line-up of finalists in the running for the 2013 Mies van der Rohe Award (click on images for great presentations).
- Stalled plan for Gehry's WTC arts center gets a boost (with hopes of reducing the price tag).
- Chicago stars will shine along the Mississippi waterfront in the "largest single multi-use development in Illinois," charged with designing 130 acres "in anyway they chose."
- Grand Central Terminal turns 100 tomorrow - how better to celebrate than with a fab excerpt from Sam Roberts' new book on the grand (and our favorite) place!
- Hay has high hopes that "perceptions just might be changing" in a fascinating essay defending Brutalism: "It seems poised for a comeback."
- Wise introduces us to Mussolini's Sabaudia, just north of Rome: it "survives as a fascinating reminder of a despotic ideology, and of its innovative experiment in architecture and town planning."
- Activists hope to save an old Warsaw Ghetto building that community leaders would rather see "torn down to make way for a multistory tower."
- 10 things you must know about architectural copyrights ("imitation could be a very costly endeavor").
- Weekend diversions (and lots of 'em!):
- Russell, Davidson, and Goodyear weigh in on MCNY's "Making Room: New Models for Housing New Yorkers": "These are not places for pack rats, as the show makes amusingly, abundantly clear" + Bloomberg "could be the mayor who brought New York the 21st century flophouse" + the show is "so enticing, you'll want to move in."
- Wainwright finds a bit of disappointment in "Extraordinary Stories about Ordinary Things" at London's Design Museum: its "new permanent collection already seems dated."
- Chan's Q&A with Bone, curator of "Lessons from Modernism" at Cooper Union: "this oft-misunderstood movement championed a surprisingly relevant agenda to find harmony with the natural world."
- Now Pittsburgh has the chance to "explores the collision of fear, health, and urbanism in the 20th century" as CCA's "Imperfect Health" takes up residence at Carnegie Mellon.
- In NYC, "Seismic Shifts: 10 Visionaries in Contemporary Art and Architecture" at the National Academy (we saw it - some amazing visions, indeed).
- "Ezra Stoller: Beyond Architecture" highlights his "eye for capturing industry, technology, transportation and working-class Americans at mid-century."
- Time is running out to help kickstart "Never Built: Los Angeles" at the A+D Museum: "Welcome to bizarro L.A."
- 30 of "the best architecture documentaries which will provoke, intrigue and beguile" (great trailers, but no mention of BWAf's "A Girl is a Fellow Here"?!!?).
- Saunders and others explore the work of China's Olmsted in "Designed Ecologies: The Landscape Architecture of Kongjian Yu."
- Filler finds much to laugh about in "Batman: Death by Design": it's "an acidic indictment of the present-day cult of architectural stardom" with a "scathing portrayal of a Netherlandish master builder named Kem Roomhaus" (a great read).
- Szenasy cheers "Hand-Drying in America": Katchor's books titles alone "signal that you are about to enter the zany world of an inventive and original mind."

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Five finalists announced for the 2013 European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award. -- Robbrecht en Daem architecten/Marie-José Van Hee architecten; BIG Bjarke Ingels Group/Topotek1/Superflex; Batterid architects/Henning Larsen Architects/Studio Olafur Eliasson; Aires Mateus Arquitectos; J. Mayer H. [images link to portfolios] - Mies van der Rohe Foundation

World Trade Center Arts Center Receives Financial Boost With \$1 Million Approval To Develop Project: ...construction could begin in 2017; the center could open in 2019...total cost had been estimated at \$450 million but the board is working to reduce the price tag. -- Frank Gehry- Huffington Post

Developers unveil \$150M plan for East Moline riverfront: Fountainhead Quad-Cities... will be the largest single multi-use development in Illinois..."to take 130 acres of empty parcel and go to the best architects in the world ... to design and create in anyway they chose." -- Helmut Jahn; Stanley Tigerman/Margaret McCurry/Tigerman McCurry Architects; Peter Osler; James DeStefano [images]- Quad-City Times (Iowa)

100 Years of Grandeur: The Birth of Grand Central Terminal: ...excerpt from "Grand Central: How a Train Station Transformed America," by Sam Roberts. -- Reed & Stem; Warren & Wetmore [images]- New York Times

Defending Brutalism: The Uncertain Future of Modernist Concrete Structures: Much maligned over the years, Brutalism is acquiring new fans. It seems poised for a comeback...It is too early to tell whether Paul Rudolph's Orange County Government Center will survive. But given the warm reception designLAB's UMass Dartmouth restoration is getting...perceptions just might be changing. By David Hay -- David Fixler/DOCOMOMO; John M. Johansen; Marcel Breuer; I.M. Pei; Peter and Alison Smithson; Jorn Utzon Crites & McConnell; Louis Kahn; Desmond and Lord Architects; William E. Massie- Preservation magazine

Mussolini's New Town: Some 40 miles from Rome stands one of the best-preserved examples of fascist architecture in Europe — a town built at lightning speed...and admired by Le Corbusier...Sabaudia survives as a fascinating reminder of a despotic ideology, and of its innovative experiment in architecture and town planning. By Michael Z. Wise- Guernica Magazine

Activists try to save old Warsaw Ghetto building: ..."the white building," the headquarters of the Jewish community...could be torn down to make way for a multistory tower...The debate is a microcosm of deeper issues that emerge in city planning...envision a building that could rise up to...nearly 20 stories. (AP) [images]- Times-Standard (California)

The 10 things you must know about architectural copyrights: Some people say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. However, under architectural copyright law, imitation could be a very costly endeavor. - Lexology

Micropad Mockup: Micro Digs' Sliding TV, Murphy Bed Tempt Singles: About 33% of New Yorkers live alone. So why doesn't the housing market cater to them? "Making Room: New Models for Housing New Yorkers" displays provocative ways the city can adapt itself to changing demographics and behavior...These are not places for pack rats, as the show at the Museum of the City of New York makes amusingly, abundantly clear. By James S. Russell -- Amie Gross Architects; adAPT NYC; nARCHITECTS- Bloomberg News

How We Live Now: Justin Davidson on Bloomberg's Microapartments: "Making Room: New Models for Housing New Yorkers"...The design solutions are ingenious but not new...[he] may not want to claim this as his legacy, but he could be the mayor who brought New York the 21st century flophouse. -- nARCHITECTS- New York Magazine

This Micro-Apartment Exhibit Is So Enticing, You'll Want to Move In: New York's latest foray into smaller living hits all the right notes...LaunchPad, a 325-square-foot model apartment that is part of the "Making Room: New Models for Housing New Yorkers" at the Museum of the City of New York. By Sarah Goodyear -- Amie Gross Architects; adAPT NYC; nARCHITECTS [images]- The Atlantic Cities

The Design Museum's new permanent collection already seems dated: Two years before it moves into its new home, the museum is struggling to keep up with the times..."Extraordinary Stories about Ordinary Things"...Deyan Sudjic hopes his display will reveal the heroic histories behind everyday items -- from Biros [Breuer chairs]- By Oliver Wainwright- Guardian (UK)

[Le Corbusier's Ecology: "Lessons from Modernism: Environmental Design Considerations in 20th Century Architecture, 1925 - 1970" at The Cooper Union attempts to dispel the stigmatized conception of modern architecture as a blithely out-of-context and even environmentally disruptive style...this oft-misunderstood movement championed a surprisingly relevant agenda to find harmony with the natural world. By Kelly Chan – Kevin Bone; Alvar Aalto; Paul Rudolph; Jean Prouvé; Oscar Niemeyer - Artinfo](#)

[Architecture In The Exam Room: "Imperfect Health: The Medicalization of Architecture" explores the collision of fear, health, and urbanism in the 20th century...curated by Giovanna Borasi + Mirko Zardini...at Carnegie Mellon University's Miller Gallery...includes failures, scams, and downright fantastical hypotheses about how design can improve everything from asthma to obesity...It also includes plenty of successes... \[images\] - Fast Company](#)

[National Academy Shows Visionary Work of 10 Architects and Artists: "Seismic Shifts: 10 Visionaries in Contemporary Art and Architecture" through May 5 -- Greg Lynn/FORM, Kate Orff/SCAPE/ Landscape Architecture; Moshe Safdie - Contract magazine](#)

["Ezra Stoller: Beyond Architecture" at the Yossi Milo Gallery \[NYC\], features rarely-seen images selected from the Stoller archive specifically to highlight the legendary photographer's eye for capturing industry, technology, transportation and working-class Americans at mid-century. - DOCOMOMO NY/Tri-State](#)

[Kickstarting: An Exhibition Of The Unrealized History Of Los Angeles: "Never Built: Los Angeles" will display plans for projects that would have significantly altered the infrastructure of the southern California city - but didn't. Welcome to bizarro L.A...at A+D Architecture and Design Museum. -- Sam Lubell; Greg Goldin; Tibbie Dunbar \[images\] - Fast Company](#)

[The 30 Architecture Docs To Watch In 2013: ...the best Architecture Documentaries which will provoke, intrigue and beguile... - ArchDaily](#)

[Kongjian Yu: China's Frederick Law Olmsted: "Designed Ecologies: The Landscape Architecture of Kongjian Yu" edited by William Saunders...Nestled among 21 case studies of projects...across China and the U.S. are a set of essays by leading Western landscape architecture practitioners...each examine an aspect of this world-changing designer... By Jared Green -- Turenscape \[images\] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)

[Batman vs. Koolhaas: ...the first graphic novel to thoroughly engage, not to say captivate, me is Chip Kidd and Dave Taylor's "Batman: Death by Design"...an impassioned plea for historic preservation, a cautionary tale of engineering hubris, a nostalgic homage to the visionary draftsman Hugh Ferriss...and an acidic indictment of the present-day cult of architectural stardom...scathing portrayal of a Netherlandish master builder named Kem Roomhaus... By Martin Filler \[images\] - New York Review of Books](#)

[Ben Katchor Has a New Book: Turn to our columnist for memorable, often hilarious, views of the big city..."Hand-Drying in America"...His books' titles alone...signal that you are about to enter the zany world of an inventive and original mind... By Susan S. Szenasy \[images\] - Metropolis Magazine](#)



[-- MAD: Absolute Towers \["Marilyn Monroe" towers\], Mississauga, Canada](#)
[-- Barreca & La Varra Studio: B5 Building, Milan, Italy](#)
[-- "ARCHIGRAM - A Guide to Archigram 1961-74" by Pamela Johnston, Catherine Crompton, Philip Mann, Christian Steiner & Toni Stooss](#)

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